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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/796,983

03/11/2004

Kouichi Takagi

119053

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25944

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05/01/2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HOA CAO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/796,983

Applicant(s)

TAKAGI, KOUICHI

Examiner

Hoa C. Nguyen

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1 pg.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's election with traverse of group I, claims 1-3, in the reply filed on 4/18/06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search and the examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. This is not found persuasive because group II, claims 4-7, drawn to a method instead of a structure. As explained in the Selection/Restriction Requirement dated 3/20/06, the structure can be formed by a different method. Thus, the search and the examination for a particular method beside the structure is a serious burden.
2. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made **FINAL**. Claims 1-3 are treated on the merits in this Office Action.

### ***Specification***

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The term "plain" must be changed to "plane", in the specification, paragraphs 6, 9, 28 and 75. Appropriate correction is required.
4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of a typo error as shown above. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
5. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The term "on one plain" must be changed to "on one plane". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Onizuka et al. (US 6472772).

**Regarding claim 1**, as shown in figure 2, Onizuka et al. disclose a bus bar structure plate (no reference number, part of electric power distributor, see abstract) in which:

(a) A plurality of bus bars 10A-10E/10F-10G and 12A-12D/12E<sub>1</sub>/12E<sub>2</sub>/12E<sub>3</sub> and 10I/12I/12J/12K (column 3, lines 48-56) are arranged on one plane ( ) in an arrangement forming an electric power circuit, and

(b) the bus bars are connected to each other to form an integrated whole shape (same plane on the same flat surface, column 2, lines 3-8; column 3, lines 57-59),

(c) wherein the bus bar structure plate has the integrated whole shape in which a plurality of types of electric power circuits are formed by selecting at least one position at which the bus bars are separated from each other (cutting appropriate positions or its equivalent, column 3, lines 60-67).

**Regarding claim 2**, as shown in figures 1-6, Onizuka et al. disclose:

(a) A mounting position (no reference number, clearly shown in figure 3) for mounting a plurality of switching elements 14s (FETs 14, column 2, line 60 continuing column 3, line 4) intervening in the electric power circuit is set at predetermined positions (for an exemplary circuit as shown in figure 1), and

(b) the integrated whole shape is set such that a circuit in which the plurality of switching elements to be mounted in the mounting position are arranged in parallel (see figure 1, column 3, line 6), and

(c) a circuit in which a plurality of switching elements to be mounted in the mounting portion are arranged in series (see figure 1, column 3, line 9), and

(d) the circuit arrangements are selectively formed by selecting at least one position (cutting positions, column 3, lines 60-67) at which the bus bars are separated from each other (also see column 8, lines 14-18).

**Regarding claim 3**, as shown in figures 3 and 4, Onizuka et al. disclose a substrate adhesion region (the region on which control circuit board 18 is attached to) to which a control circuit board 18 (column 3, line 26) for controlling operation of the electric power circuit (column 3, lines 22-42) formed of the bus bars is adhered is set at a predetermined position, and the substrate adhesion region has such a shape that connecting portion of the bus bars are connected is positioned outside the substrate adhesion region (as clearly shown in figure 4, the control circuit board is formed within an inner region of the bus bars - within the center area, and connectors enclosing member 32/34/40-49 are formed outside the area, see abstract and column 7, lines 1-15).

#### ***Citation of Relevant Art***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Roberts (US 4471158) disclose a programmable header.

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Wanes et al. (US 6965517) disclose a component substrate for a printed circuit board and method of assembling the substrate and the circuit board.

Kasai et al. (US 6315578) disclose an electrical connection box, its method of manufacturing, a wire connection bus bar of an electrical connection box and its producing method.

Nakamura et al. (US 6987656) disclose a relay, relay unit and electrical junction box.

Detter et al. (US 5023752) disclose an electrical power distribution center.

Mizuno et al. (US 6466451) disclose an electric connection box.

Kasai (US 6116916) discloses an electrical connection box.

Sumida et al. (US 5928004) disclose an electrical connection box for an automotive vehicle.

Kawakita et al. (US 20040001319) disclose a Circuit-constituting member and circuit unit.

Onizuka et al. (US 20010026430) disclose a power distributor for a vehicle and production method thereof.

Mizuno et al. (US 20010012708) disclose an electric connection box.

Chiriku et al. (US 6541700) disclose a junction box and junction box forming method.

Iwata (US 6600658) discloses an electrical junction box.

### ***Conclusion***

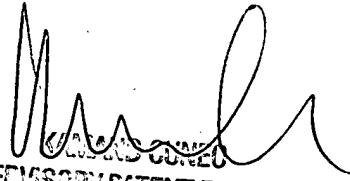
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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoa C. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-8293. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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4/26/06

  
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